

database and maintained for referral. NCDHH can provide resources and information to mental health providers regarding technology accommodations for the deaf and hard of hearing. Training on working with deaf and hard of hearing people also is available. Technical assistance in intervention

possible mental health services. Working with a video relay network (Telehealth) to provide higher quality video services allows for signing or interpreting at a distance throughout the state of Nebraska.

Equipment Program (NEDP)

The NEDP program is to provide financial assistance to persons with disabilities. The equipment distribution program provides a voucher of up to \$1,000 to deaf, deaf-blind, and speech impaired persons. These persons will then use the voucher to aid in the purchasing of telephone equipment such as amplifiers, hearing devices and TTYs. The NEDP has some guidelines to receive equipment. The Public Service Commission is responsible for development of procedures necessary for implementation of the program. Applications can be obtained from our web site at <http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH/>.

Project H.E.A.R.

"Hear Everything Around the Region"

Project H.E.A.R. originated from a grant awarded by the Nebraska Department of Education's Assistive Technology Partnership to NCDHH. The project's goal is to inform and educate deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech impaired persons about hearing assistive technology. The objective of Project H.E.A.R. is to conduct presentations, demonstrate assistive listening devices and provide technical assistance to individuals, service providers, and existing independent living programs. Project H.E.A.R. provides hands-on access to assistive devices at our office demonstration centers.

Sertoma Hearing Aid Bank

The hearing aid bank is operated jointly by three organizations: Sertoma Clubs of Nebraska, NCDHH, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Speech and Hearing Clinic. The UNL Speech and Hearing Clinic collects, repairs and distributes hearing aids to persons 65 years and older who do not have the financial means to purchase an aid. NCDHH receives and processes applications for hearing aids. Applications can be obtained from our web site at <http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH/>.

Statewide Interpreter Referral Service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

To assist agencies, businesses and individuals in their efforts to make programs and

services accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people, NCDHH offers a statewide sign language interpreter referral service. NCDHH maintains a list of qualified sign language interpreters throughout Nebraska. NCDHH selects interpreters from a current directory of qualified interpreters. To contact the referral service, please call 1-877-248-7836. For a listing of sign language interpreters that are available for emergencies during non-business hours, a listing can be found on the NCDHH web site at <http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH/>.

For more information please contact:

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4600 Valley Road, Suite 420
Lincoln, NE 68510-4844
(402) 471-3593 - V/TTY
Fax: (402) 471-3067
Toll Free: 1-800-545-6244 - V/TTY
E-mail Address: lstaff@ncdhh.state.ne.us

1313 Farnam On-The-Mall
Omaha, NE 68102-1836
(402) 595-3991 - V/TTY
Fax: (402) 595-2509
Toll Free: 1-877-248-7836 - V/TTY
E-mail Address: ostaff@ncdhh.state.ne.us

200 South Silber, Room 207
North Platte, NE 69101-4298
(308) 535-6600 - V/TTY
Fax: (308) 535-8175
Toll Free: 1-888-713-3118 - V/TTY
E-mail Address: npstaff@ncdhh.state.ne.us

Visit Us on the Web:

<http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH>

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday -- 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Closed on State Holidays)



Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Servicing

Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraska

Services

Commission for the Deaf and
g (NCDHH) is a state
d to serve the deaf and hard
le in Nebraska. The State
up the Commission in 1979.
n's goals have been divided
g areas:

and programs and services
le to deaf and hard of
persons throughout the

plement new programs
n collaboration with con-
groups, the governor,
ure, organizations, institu-
and agencies.

iden the collection and
ination of information on
loss and deafness.

The 21st Century

goal is to provide statewide
deaf and hard of hearing
facilities and service
displaying the international
ess, public facilities and
es inform patrons that the
lic facility has implemented
the Access program. This
means the business/
agency has conducted
staff orientation programs
on effective communica-
tion with deaf and hard of

hearing customers, and/or has installed or
provided technical aids for these customers
or patrons.

Assistive Devices-Loan Programs

In cooperation with the Heartland Chapter
of the Telephone Pioneers of America, and
the Frank H. Woods Telephone Pioneer
Association, NCDHH provides a Telecom-
munication Device for the Deaf (TTY),
Telecaption Decoder and Pocketalker loan
program. These devices are donated and
maintained by Pioneers. Deaf and hard of
hearing Nebraskans who are unable to



TTY

purchase assistive devices
are eligible to borrow them
for up to one year. The
Pocketalker can be loaned
for a period of two months.
NCDHH will make inter-
agency loans of TTYs to agencies or
organizations requesting them. These loans
are made for a one-year period to allow the
agency time to determine if it has a need to
purchase a TTY. TTYs loaned through the
interagency program are purchased by and
remain the property of NCDHH. Agencies
wishing to request a TTY must submit a
letter of request to the Executive Director of
NCDHH.

Census

NCDHH conducts an ongoing census of
Nebraskans who have a hearing loss.
Participation in the census is strictly volun-
tary and all names remain confidential.
NCDHH uses the census to determine a

need for services. People who return
census information also receive the
NCDHH Newsletter, which is published
three times a year. The cards are made
available at the Commission offices, or can
be completed online at
<http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH/>

Conversational Sign Classes

NCDHH staff can provide conversational
sign language instruction to state agencies
that work with deaf and hard of hearing
people. This instruction is tailored to meet
the needs of the specific agencies, generally
covering a four to six week period. A
minimum of 10 participants is required to
begin and continue the class.

Information/Referral

One of the principal functions of NCDHH is
to gather and disseminate information on a
variety of topics related to hearing loss. To
meet this goal, NCDHH Field Representa-
tives make presentations throughout the
state to agencies, schools, organizations and
other groups who request this service.

Lions Hearing Aid Bank

The hearing aid bank is operated jointly by
three organizations: the Nebraska Lions
Foundation (NLF), NCDHH, and the
University of Nebraska Medical Center
(UNMC). The Lions seek donation of aids
and funds, nominate prospective hearing aid
recipients and help explain the bank to the
public. Used/reconditioned hearing aids
are provided to persons who meet the age

and financial requirements. NCDHH
receives and processes applica-
tions for hearing aids. Applications can be
submitted from our web site at
<http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH/>

Media Center

NCDHH maintains a media
center. Video and audio materials are
prised of videotapes, and books and
materials are available for ch
resident of Nebraska. Resid
outside of Lincoln (the locati
center) will receive the items
through the mail. Patrons wh
products through the mail are
for return postage. Patrons a
borrowing two tapes and/or
time. Materials are loaned f
period. A bibliography of ava
can be obtained by calling N
online at <http://www.nol.org/>
Materials not returned on tim
patrons being suspended from
services.

Mental Health, Alcohol Drug Abuse Services

In June 1995, Legislative Bill
Mental Health Specialist posi
NCDHH to ensure full access
hensive mental health, alcoh
abuse services for deaf and h
people.

To determine accessible prog
providers, NCDHH conduct
needs assessment. Informat